

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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R 150315Z OCT 74

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2547

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1779

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJECT: POLITICAL OBSERVATIONS IN SIAN

1. LI JUI-SHAN, PARTY FIRST SECRETARY AND CHAIRMAN OF THE SHENSI REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE, CONTINUES TO BE ATTACKED IN RECENT BIG CHARACTER POSTERS APPEARING IN SIAN. DURING OCTOBER 9-11 VISIT TO THE SHENSI CAPITAL, USLO OFFICER OBSERVED NEW POSTERS AND LARGE SLOGANS WRITTEN ON WALLS WHICH ATTACKED LI FOR SUPPRESSING THE MOVEMENT IN SHENSI, PARTICULARLY DURING THE MONTHS OF JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER. OTHER POSTERS REFERRED TO INCORRECT DECISIONS TAKEN AT A JULY 29 MEETING OF THE PARTY COMMITTEE.

2. NEW WALL POSTERS NEAR THE CENTER OF THE CITY WERE DRAWING SMALL KNOTS OF PEOPLE, BUT IN GENERAL, THERE SEEMED TO BE LITTLE ENTHUSIASM FOR THE COMPLAINTS CONTAINED IN THE POSTERS. ONE WALL CONTAINED A REFERENCE TO "A SINGLE SPARK" ELEMENT, SUGGESTING THAT THOSE WHO ARE CONTINUING THE ATTACK ON THE PROVINCIAL LEADERSHIP ARE IN A DEFINITE MINORITY.

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3. USLO OFFICER'S CTS GUIDE DURING VISIT, A MR. AN WEI, PROVED EXCEPTIONALLY COMMUNICATIVE CONCERNING THE MOVEMENT IN SHENSI. HE SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN NUMEROUS ABUSES OF ELEMENTS WHO HAD EMERGED DURING THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION BY PROVINCIAL LEADERS, AND THAT HE HAD AGREED WITH THE BIG CHARACTER POSTER ATTACKS ON THE LEADERSHIP WHEN THE CAMPAIGN FIRST BEGAN. HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT IN JULY THE PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE HAD SENT DOWN DIRECTIVES THAT THE MOVEMENT SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON UNITY AND INCREASING PRODUCTION. HE SAID THAT MOST PEOPLE ACCEPTED THIS, AND HE FELT THAT "A SMALL GROUP IN A FEW FACTORIES" WERE WRONG TO CONTINUE THEIR ATTACKS AT THIS POINT. AN, WHO IS A PARTY MEMBER AND WAS A RED GUARD DURING THE GPCR, RATHER POINTEDLY NOTED THAT AFTER A PERIOD OF UPHEAVAL IT IS NECESSARY TO HAVE A PERIOD OF RELATIVE CALM IN WHICH NEW GAINS CAN BE CONSOLIDATED AND PRODUCTION INCREASED.

4. IN BOTH LOYANG AND SIAN WHENEVER USLO OFFICER ASKED ABOUT PROGRESS IN THE CAMPAIGN TO CRITICIZE LIN PIAO AND CONFUCIUS, HE WAS TOLD "WE ARE NOW BROADENING THE CAMPAIGN AND CONDUCTING IT IN DEPTH." THE STRESS IN EVERY CASE WAS ON CRITICIZING LIN PIAO'S MILITARY LINE.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH WALL POSTERS AND WALL PAINTING ARE WIDESPREAD IN SIAN, THE CAMPAIGN THERE CLEARLY SEEMS TO BE WINDING DOWN. THOSE POSTERS OBSERVED AND THE COMMENTS BY AN WEI TEND TO CONFIRM OBSERVATIONS BY BOTH USLO AND CONGEN HONG KONG THAT, BEGINNING IN JULY, A DECISION WAS REACHED TO REIN IN THOSE ACTIVIST AND POTENTIALLY DISRUPTIVE ELEMENTS WHILE SHIFTING THE FOCUS OF THE MOVEMENT TO A MORE THEORETICAL ORIENTATION CHARACTERISTIC OF ITS EARLIER PHASE.
HOLDRIDGE

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